

NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Mid-America Pipeline Company Western Expansion Project.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office, lead Federal office, for the proposed project Mid-America Pipeline Company Western Expansion Project. The EA analyzed the potential impacts of granting rights-of-way and temporary use permits for 12 pipeline loop sections accumulating 202 miles on an approximate 840-mile route between the Granger and Wamsutter areas in Wyoming, and Hobbs, New Mexico. The pipelines would be eight to 16 inches in diameter, buried, steel, and carry natural gas liquids (NGLs). Existing ancillary facilities, including pump stations, would be up-graded to have more capacity.

DATES: The availability period for review and comment on the EA ends July 22, 2005. Review and comments are needed to ensure all issues and concerns are considered. Upon completion of the 30-day review and comment period, a Decision Record will be issued provided no substantive comments are received on the EA.

ADDRESSES: Public reading copies of the EA will be available for reading at the following public libraries:

- Albuquerque Public Library, 501 Copper NW, Albuquerque, NM
- Bernalillo Public Library, 134 Calle Malinche, Bernalillo, NM
- Bloomfield Public Library, 333 South 1st Street, Bloomfield, NM
- Cuba Community Library, 6344 U.S. Highway 550, Cuba, NM
- Edgewood Public Library, 1952 Old U.S. 66, Edgewood, NM
- Farmington Public Library, 2101 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, NM
- Hobbs Public Library, 509 North Shipp, Hobbs, NM
- Moriarty Community Library, 202 South Broadway, Moriarty, NM
- Placitas Community Library 1 Tierra Madre Rodd, Placitas, NM
- Rio Rancho Public Library, 950 Pinetree Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM
- Roswell Public Library, 301 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Roswell, NM
- Dolores Public Library, 420 Railroad Avenue, Dolores, CO
- Durango Public Library, 1188 East Second Avenue, Durango, CO
- Grand County Public Library, 25 South First East, Moab, UT
- San Juan County Library, 80 North Main Street, Monticello, UT
- Uintah County Library, 155 East Main, Vernal, UT
- Carbon County Library, 215 West Buffalo, Rawlins, WY
- Lincoln County Library, 519 Emerald, Kemmerer, WY
- Green River Library, 300 North 1st East, Green River, WY
- Rock Springs Library, 400 C Street, Rock Springs, WY
- White Mountain Library, 2935 Sweetwater Drive, Rock Springs, WY

A limited number of copies of the EA will be available for reading at the following Bureau of Land Management Offices:

- Albuquerque Field Office, 435 Montano Road NE, Albuquerque, NM
- Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Hwy., Farmington, NM
- Roswell Field Office, 2909 West Second Street, Roswell, NM
- Moab Field Office, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, UT
- Monticello Field Office, 435 North Main Street, Monticello, UT
- Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, UT
- Kemmerer Field Office, 312 Highway 189 North, Kemmerer, WY
- Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY
- Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third, Rawlins, WY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Crockford, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Highway, Suite A, Farmington, NM 87401; telephone (505) 599-6333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EA addresses the proposed action and one alternative.

The EA and comment form are available at <http://www.nm.blm.gov/>. In the event this web site is not accessible, a CD containing the EA and comment form may be obtained by contacting Ms. Barbara Neary of O & G Environmental Consulting, the National Environmental Policy Act Contractor, at telephone number (720) 529-9777 or electronic mail at bneary@ogenvironmental.com. Additional information about the proposed project can be obtained at the applicant's web site at <http://www.epplp.com/map/overview.htm>.

Under the no action alternative, no new NGL pipeline loops would be constructed and there would not be any improvement to facilities. No impacts to existing environmental resource conditions would occur. Transporting the NGLs would need to be accommodated in some other manner.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT: Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the Bureau of Land Management, Farmington District Office during regular business hours (7:45 am-4:30 pm). Individuals may request confidentiality. If a person wishes to withhold their name, home address, and telephone number from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, that person must state this prominently at the beginning of their comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individual identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

COMMENT DATES: The comment period will commence with the publication of this notice. Written or electronically mailed comments on the EA are due by 4:30 pm MDT on July 22, 2005. To ensure prompt review and consideration of your comments, please note on the envelope, Environmental Assessment Comments Enclosed - Mid America Pipeline Company Western Expansion Project. Comments should be mailed to Jerry Crockford, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Farmington District Office, 1235 La Plata Hwy., Suite A, Farmington, NM 87401. Address comments made by electronic mail to jcrockfo@blm.gov. Public participation is encouraged throughout this project.

/s/ Jerrold E. Crockford

BLM, Project Manager

Date: June 15, 2005